

# THE EWDC UPDATE

Spring 2026

Spring has sprung and our students have blossomed into engaged and excited readers! Read on to learn more about what EWDC has been doing this program year to connect kids with books and build a foundation for future success.

## EWDC 2025-26 Impact

Our full impact report is coming soon, but here is a sneak peak of all we've accomplished this school year:

- **167** students enrolled in Power Readers mentoring program
- **2,326** reading mentoring hours completed
- **57** StoryTime read-aloud events delivered
- **11,269** free books distributed
- **591** volunteers engaged
- **66** book drives completed

(Data as of 6/5/26)



## Author-Illustrator StoryTime Series

This year, we launched our author-illustrator StoryTime series and hosted 8 authors at 6 partner schools to read and share their books with 200+ students. Thank you to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for making this possible!

Surgeon and author Jennifer Sun (pictured on left) was one of these authors – she read her book, *Tiny Scrubs, Big Dreams*, to third grade students at Van Ness Elementary School. The students were thrilled to hear about her dual career and asked many questions about career exploration. We're thrilled to bring in such a wide array of authors who help our students expand their horizons!

## Cherry Blossom StoryTimes

Once again, EWDC welcomed delegates from the national Cherry Blossom Princess Program to join our students for a special StoryTime read-aloud event.

This year's special event was at Randle Highlands Elementary School, a DCPS school in Ward 7. Delegates read stories about their home states and countries with all 237 students across the school, and each of those students received their own books from EWDC to take home!



## March - May Program Activities

- The Giving Square's Kids for Kids program selected EWDC as their award recipient from S. Christa McAuliffe & Highland Elementary Schools. Students at each school researched and selected a local kid-serving nonprofit to award a \$1,000 grant.
- Emelyn, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Thomson Elementary School, placed second in the Junior League of Washington's Annual Youth Poetry Contest with a poem she wrote with her Power Readers mentor.
- EWDC hosted an after-school reading program at Thomson Elementary School, where students and volunteers gathered weekly for a book club!

Be one of the first to sign up as a Power Readers mentor for the 2026-27 school year! [bit.ly/ewdc-become-a-mentor](https://bit.ly/ewdc-become-a-mentor)



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

As we wrap up the 2025-26 program year, we're taking a look back at the amazing memories we've made throughout our partner schools, and looking forward to the ways we'll grow during the 2026-27 school year!

*"Reading was already fun, but Power Readers made it more fun by making it more enjoyable!"*

**-Lilian, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at J.O. Wilson Elementary School**



*"[My mentee] seemed to very much appreciate that I was there for him. That is a warming feeling."*

**-Freddie, Power Readers mentor at Van Ness Elementary School**



In school year 2026-27, EWDC is expanding programs and launching Power Readers at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School (401 I St SW, Washington, DC 20024)!

Sign up to read with an Amidon-Bowen ES student or select a location closer to your home or office.

[bit.ly/ewdc-become-a-mentor](https://bit.ly/ewdc-become-a-mentor)



*"Being able to see life through my mentee's eyes and getting new perspectives on things had a major impact. Reading with her is also the highlight of my week because it's so fun!"*

**-Morgan, Power Readers mentor at Thomson Elementary School**



*"Power Readers made me a more confident reader by making me feel like you don't need to hide that you don't know some words."*

**-Valentina, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Thomson Elementary School**

Scan the QR code to sign up for our email list, or follow @everybodywinsdc on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest EWDC news!

